

# YMCA GEELONG



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**THURSDAY 25th September 2014**

## Youth of Geelong honoured for community contribution

The Y Service Club of Geelong Inc. last night announced Declan Behan of Highton as the recipient of the YMCA Youth Volunteer Award for 2014.

Declan, 20 was named the YMCA Youth Volunteer Award winner after undertaking a process which involved nominations from community groups or charity to recognise the voluntary contribution made by young people aged 15-25 years to community organisations, clubs or schools from the Barwon region.

The four finalists; Ashleigh Campbell- Torquay Fire Brigade, Giselle Keefe- Deakin University Red Frogs Australia, Mai Taitapanui- Torquay Surf Life Saving Club and Declan Behan – Bancoora Surf Life Saving Club at Breamlea presented to the YMCA Youth Volunteer Award Committee and representatives from their nominated clubs before the finalist is publically announced.

Declan, a past Christian College student and now attends Deakin University where he is currently studying mechanical engineering. This is his 12<sup>th</sup> year as a member of the Bancoora Surf Life Saving Club having commenced as a nipper through to patrol and now the Chief Instructor. In peak season Declan spends up to 200hours at the club providing training and patrols.

Benjamin Pope, President of Bancoora Surf Life Saving Club said "Declan was an enthusiastic and valued member of the club and volunteers his time freely to ensure the community is safe and protected in aquatic environments."

Jaryd De Beer, President of the Y Service Club of Geelong said "It was a fitting recognition for the voluntary contribution Declan has made to his club and the community, he has developed as a person and now shares his knowledge with others through the Chief Instructor role".

"The YMCA along with hundreds of community organisation and clubs across the region could not exist without the valuable contribution made by volunteers but it is fantastic to see that Geelong's young people are giving back to the community through their time and talent." said Shona Eland CEO of YMCA Geelong.

Declan received a \$2500 donation from the Y Service Club of Geelong for the Bancoora Surf Life Saving Club and \$500 scholarship to further his volunteer contribution to the community.

-Ends-

**For More information Contact:**

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**Photo opportunity:**

Photo opportunity and interview is available.

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2014 YMCA Youth Volunteer Award winner -Declan Behan, Jaryd De Beer-  
President Y Service Club of Geelong and Benjamin Pope, President Bancoora Surf  
Life Saving Club